WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:
Boom Installation (3 sites) to launch & retrieve pump screens into Yakima River

2. Name of applicant:
Benton Conservation District (BCD)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Mark Nielson, BCD manager

415 Wine Country Road

Prosser, WA 99350

(509) 786-1923

4. Date checklist prepared:
May 27, 2009

5. Agency requesting checklist:
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

The three proposed booms will be installed between June 1, 2009 and October 30, 2009.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Routine maintenance will occur at each pump site. The booms will be used to launch and retrieved the fish screens annually to provide service during the irrigation season.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

A JARPA has been completed for each site. Executive Order 05-05 consultation with DAHP and affected Indian Nations was completed by the Washington Restoration and Conservation Office. Also, a programmatic SEPA was completed (DNS issued) for pump screen installation within the Yakima Basin. That document is incorporated by reference, but does not cover installation of booms.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

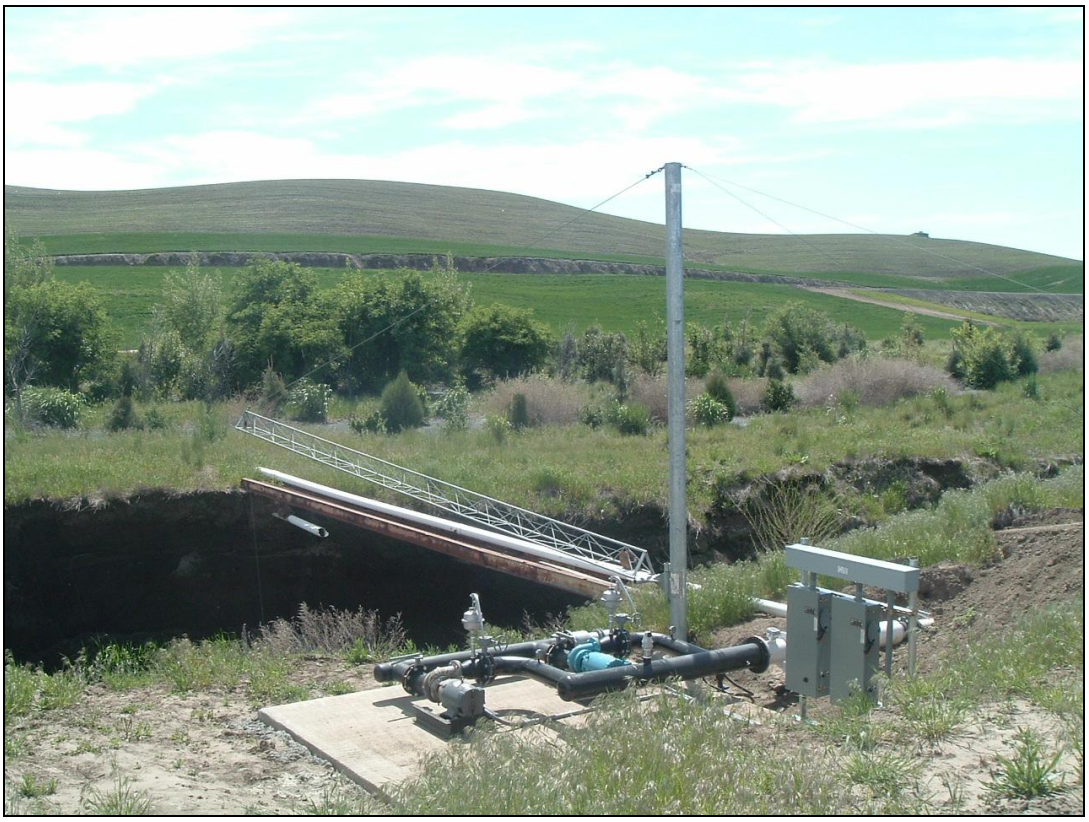
None known

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Each site will need an HPA, and shoreline permit/exemptions. ESA Section 7 and cultural resources are already complete. These are exempt from Corps of Engineers permits.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

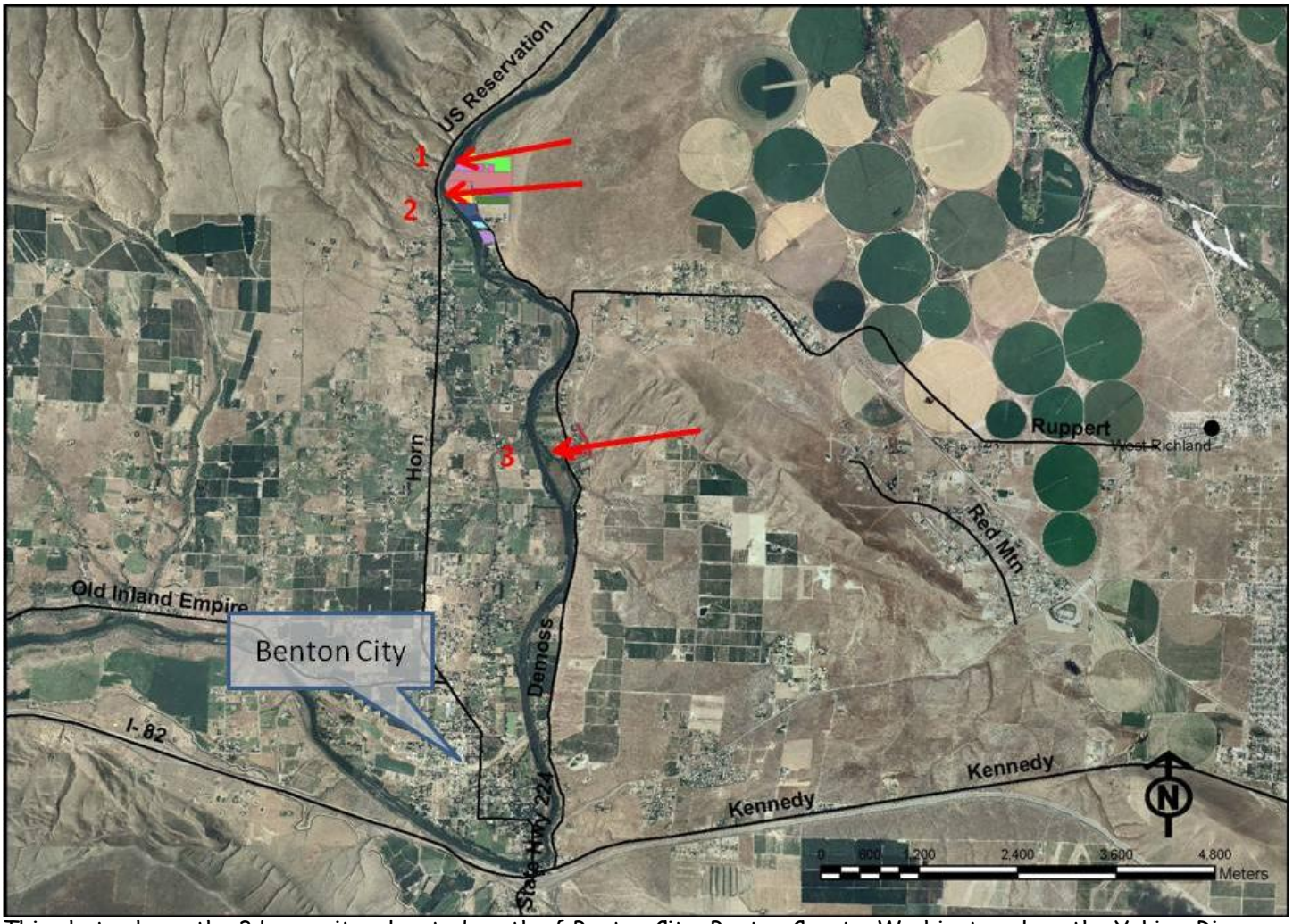
The Benton Conservation District (BCD) is working with three private landowners to ensure their irrigation diversions are compliant with NMFS and WDFW criteria. The new screens at these sites will require booms to be installed near the existing pump stations in order to safely launch and retrieve the fish screens. **At three sites along the Yakima River, a 2.5' wide and 4' deep hole will be dug using hand tools near the existing pump stations. A 30' tall steel truss will be placed into the hole and anchored with concrete and supported with steel guy wires. The truss will attach and swivel on a 6" steel mast.** The boom will provide 1600 pounds lifting capacity for each screen. The proposed installation of NOAA Fisheries and WDFW compliant fish screens on pre-existing pump diversions will reduce these risks to aquatic life.



This photo is an example of the proposed boom installation in the Touchet Watershed. The boom has a small footprint relative to the existing pump infrastructure at each of the 3 proposed sites along the lower Yakima River.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

- Lower Yakima River in Benton County
- WRIA 37
- Address:
  - 1- 78410 N. Overlook Drive Benton City, WA 99320
  - 2- 77302 N. Overlook Drive Benton City, WA 99320
  - 3- 58915 N. Demoss Road Benton City, WA 99320
- Section, Township, Range:
  - 1- 30, 10 N, 27 E
  - 2- 30, 10 N, 27 E
  - 3- 06, 09 N, 27 E
- Parcel #s:
  - 1- 130072012270000
  - 2- 130072011913002
  - 3- 106971000008000
- Lat, Long:
  - 1- 46.3294 N, 119.4907 W
  - 2- 46.3262 N, 119.4924 W
  - 3- 46.2968 N, 119.4731 W



This photo shows the 3 boom sites, located north of Benton City, Benton County, Washington along the Yakima River.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. **Earth**

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other . . . . . .

Flat

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?
Less than 2%

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Gravel, river rock, loam

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Each site currently has a concrete pumping pad and pump station. These have been stable structures.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Less than 1 cubic yard of native material will be hand dug at each site to anchor the steel truss. This hole will be backfilled with concrete and the native soil will be spread around the site, but will not be placed near flowing water.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Erosion is unlikely as all work will be completed with hand tools and work will occur during low flow periods. Each site already has a cleared area for the existing pump station so there will be no additional clearing.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Less than 2 square feet of concrete will be visible at each location upon installation of the boom. This does not account for the existing concrete pads at each site for the pump station.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

The work will require only hand tools and work will occur from the road or bank. There will be no grubbing of shoreline vegetation.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

None

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Not Applicable

3. **Water**

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Yakima River, tributary to the Columbia River

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Yes, these three booms will each require a 2.5' wide by 4' deep hole to be hand dug within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of the Yakima River. Each will be constructed near existing pump infrastructure to meet their adjudicated water rights. The booms are necessary to safely and effectively launch and retrieve the new NMFS and WDFW compliant fish screens.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Yes, but there are no new diversions or withdrawals proposed. The only water diverted will be the legal water right of each user. Each boom will be used to launch and deploy NMFS and WDFW compliant fish screens.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Yes

6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No, work will occur during low flow and dry months of the year such that uncured concrete will not come into contact with flowing water.

b. Ground:

1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No

2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not Applicable

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

No changes in water runoff or stormwater will result from the installation of 3 small booms.

2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No, work will occur during low flow and dry months of the year such that uncured concrete will not come into contact with flowing water.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Work in low flow conditions during the dry summer months. Excess spoils will be spread into the existing fields, away from the Yakima River.

4. **Plants**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

_____ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other: cottonwood

_____ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other

X_____ **shrubs**

X_____ **grass**

_____ pasture

X_____ **crop or grain**

_____ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other

_____ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other

———— other types of vegetation:

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Disturbance to vegetation will be limited to walking or driving on the bank and dragging the suction hose from the pump to the creek. No vegetation will be removed.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

None known, within the range of Ute-ladies'-tresses (federally threatened), but there are no populations known in Benton County.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not Applicable

5. **Animals**

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: **hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other**:
mammals: deer, bear, elk, **beaver, other**:
fish: **bass, salmon, trout**, herring, **shellfish, other: native cyprinids, catostomids, and cottids**

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Middle Columbia River Summer Steelhead (federally threatened)
Columbia River Distinct Population Segment of Bull Trout (federally threatened)

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Yes, Chinook salmon (Spring and fall), coho salmon, steelhead, and potentially bull trout migrate through this reach of the lower Yakima River. Efforts are underway to reintroduce summer Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon which would also migrate through this reach of the river. With all of these salmonids using this reach of the river, it is imperative that each diversion is screened according to NMFS and WDFW criteria and that those landowners can safely operate these screens.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Installation of NOAA Fisheries and WDFW compliant fish screens on pump diversions will prevent entrainment of fish life into artificial irrigation waterways. In addition, the approach velocities are such that fish will not be sucked and trapped against the intake screens. The simple action of replacing noncompliant screens with these fish screens will add protection to all fish in the Yakima Basin, including federally threatened steelhead and bull trout. These booms have small footprints such that they will minimize the amount of disturbance and all work will be completed using hand tools.

6. **Energy and natural resources**

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

No new utilities will be necessary to implement these projects.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Screens will be appropriately sized to facilitate diversion of the legal water right. Booms are operated manually.

7. **Environmental health**

a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not Applicable

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not Applicable

b. **Noise**

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

No new noise will result from implementation of these projects. Existing noise from the preexisting pumps will continue after project implementation.

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

All work will be completed using hand tools.

8. **Land and shoreline use**

a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Residences, irrigated agricultural fields, orchards, and/or pastures typically surround these properties.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Yes, the parcels served by these diversions are currently irrigated agricultural crops.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

Pre-existing electrical and pump facilities are present on each pump site. Site 3 has a small shed around the pump facility.

d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

No

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Rural

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Rural

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?
Shoreline, but not designated otherwise

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.
The Yakima River and its associated riparian area are sensitive areas.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?
None

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?
None

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:
Not Applicable

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:
Prior to implementation, the necessary permits and authorizations will be obtained from Benton County to ensure compliance with land use planning and zoning regulations.

9. **Housing**

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not Applicable

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.
Not Applicable

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:
Not Applicable

10. **Aesthetics**

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?
The main truss is 30' tall, but will be buried approximately 4 feet.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?
A new boom is unlikely to significantly alter any views near the existing pump stations.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:
The overall boom footprint has been minimized at each site to the greatest extent possible.

11. **Light and glare**

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?
There may be glare off of the steel beams associated with the boom. This glare will occur during daylight hours when the sun is at its highest.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No, there are already metal structures at each of the 3 sites that could potentially produce glare.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

No

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None

12. **Recreation**

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Each of the 3 boom sites is located on private property. The Yakima River is heavily used by recreational boaters, rafters, and fishermen.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No, but recreational users will need to avoid the pump screens and their associated infrastructure.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None

13. **Historic and cultural preservation**

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

None known

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None known, each boom will be located in a previously disturbed site. These sites were sent to DAHP and the Yakama Nation to consult on cultural resources, but none were found.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Project implementation will occur in previously developed and disturbed sites. If cultural material is encountered during excavation, all work will stop and the appropriate authorities will be contacted.

14. **Transportation**

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

The boom locations are located on North Demoss Road and North Overlook Drive, north of Benton City.

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Not Applicable

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Not Applicable

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

15. **Public services**

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not Applicable

16. **Utilities**

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: **electricity**, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity, which might be needed.

No new utilities are proposed.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: ON FILE – MARK NIELSON..... (Nielson)

Date Submitted: 6/3/2009.....